

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

DEC 16 2002

PCT

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

To:

BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
Attn. Kelly, Paula
One Baxter Parkway, DF3-3E
Deerfield, Illinois 60015
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

12/12/2002

Applicant's or agent's file reference

5596A PCT JJC

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US 02/22761

International filing date
(day/month/year)

18/07/2002

Applicant

BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.

- 1 ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the International Search Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no International Search Report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Further action(s):** The applicant is reminded of the following:

Shortly after **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later).

Within **20 months** from the priority date, the applicant must perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the demand or in a later election within 19 months from the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound by Chapter II.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Jan Boon

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 5596A PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 02/ 22761	International filing date (day/month/year) 18/07/2002	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 27/07/2001
Applicant BAXTER INTERNATIONAL INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 8 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

01

☐ None of the figures.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08L23/04 C08L23/08 C08L23/10 C08L23/20 C08J5/18
B32B27/32 A61J1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08L C08J B32B A61J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 01 70877 A (BAXTER INT) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27)	2, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14-21, 23, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-39, 41, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53-59, 62, 65, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74-78, 80-83, 85-87, 91, 93, 94, 96,
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 November 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/12/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Droghetti, A

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>the whole document</p> <p>US 4 401 536 A (LUNDELL EDWIN O ET AL) 30 August 1983 (1983-08-30)</p>	<p>98-102, 107,110, 113,114, 116-135</p>
Y	<p>abstract</p> <p>column 1. line 26 - line 36 column 2. line 11 - line 42 column 2. line 60 -column 3, line 24 column 3. line 59 -column 5, line 38 column 6. line 1 - line 40 examples 1-3; tables</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/--</p>	<p>7,10,14, 15, 17-20, 31,35, 37,49, 53,54, 57,65, 70,74, 75, 80-83, 85-87, 94,98, 99,113, 114 7,10, 14-21, 31, 35-38, 49, 53-57, 65,70, 74-78, 80-83, 85-87, 94, 98-102, 113,114, 116</p>

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 536 549 A (HATTORI KIYOSHI ET AL) 20 August 1985 (1985-08-20) abstract column 1, line 60 -column 2, line 50; example 1; table 1 ---	7,10, 14-21, 31, 35-38, 49, 53-57, 65,70, 74-78, 80-83, 85-87, 94, 98-102, 113,114, 116
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 19, 5 June 2001 (2001-06-05) & JP 2001 046473 A (MATERIAL ENG TECH LAB INC), 20 February 2001 (2001-02-20) abstract -----	2,7,9, 10,12, 14-21, 23,27, 29,31, 33, 35-39, 41,45, 47,49, 51, 53-59, 62,65, 66,68, 70,72, 74-78, 80-83, 85-87, 91,93, 94,96, 98-102, 107,110, 113,114, 116-135

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.:

1,3-6,8,11,13,22,24-26,28,30,32,34,40,42-44,46,48,50,52,60-61,63,64,67,69
.71,73,79,84,88-90,92,95...

The subject-matter of claims

1,3-6,8,11,13,22,24-26,28,30,32,34,40,42-44,46,48,50,52,60-61,63,64,67,69
.71,73,79,84,88-90,92,95,97,103-106,111,112,115,129,133,136-144 lacks
clarity for the following reasons (Article 6 PCT).

1. In view of the large number and also the wording of the claims presently on file, which render it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.1(a) PCT) to such an extent that a meaningful search is impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and concise), namely claims

2,7,9,10,12,14-21,23,27,29,31,33,35-39,41,45,47,49,51,53-59,62,65,66,68,70,72,74-78,80-83,85-87,91,93,94,96,98-102,107-110,113,114,116-128,130-132,134,135 and the film compositions illustrated in examples (pages 20-22).

2. Present claims

1,3-6,8,11,13,22,24-26,28,30,32,34,40,42-44,46,48,50,52,60-61,63,64,67,69
.71,73,79,84,88-90,92,95,97,103-106,111,112,115,129,133,136,137-144
relate to a polymer blend, films and articles thereof defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property of the blend and/or of the film and to the process for preparing the same. Process features in particular like "capable of forming", "capable of being sterilized", "suitable for", "not capable of", "flowable material", "crosslinkable", "when heated", "when formed", "obtained using/by" do not add any defined technical feature to the subject-matter of the claims (which are product claims) and do not limit the claimed subject-matter.

An attempt is made to define the polymer blends, the films and the articles thereof by reference to a result to be achieved or to the process to obtain the products. This lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible.

The claims cover all blends, films and articles having these characteristics or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such blends and films. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible.

3. Furthermore independent claims 1,22,40,61,79,103,111,115,129,136,137 lack clarity, because in these claims no technical feature, defining the

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

nature of the polymer components comprised in the polymer blend, are present. The nature of the first and of the second polymer remains unclear: "ethylene containing" polymers and "propylene (or methyl-pentene) containing" polymers can be one and the same kind of polymer, thus it is not clear which is the real difference between the first and the second component according to claims 1,22,40,61,79,103,111,115,129,136,137.

4. The lack of clarity is such as to render a meaningful complete search impossible. Consequently, the search has been restricted to claims 2,7,9,10,12,14-21,23,27,29,31,33,35-39,41,45,47,49,51,53-59,62,65,66,68,70,72,74-78,80-83,85-87,91,93,94,96,98-102,107-110,113,114,116-128,130-132,134,135 relating to polymer blends (films and articles therefore) comprising defined ethylene and propylene (or methyl-pentene) polymers, to the methods for producing the same (in particular the heat sealing process) and to the film compositions illustrated in the examples (pages 20-22).

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/22761

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/22761

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0170877	A	27-09-2001	AU 8149401 A BR 0105090 A EP 1210389 A2 WO 0170877 A2 US 2002115795 A1	03-10-2001 13-02-2002 05-06-2002 27-09-2001 22-08-2002
US 4401536	A	30-08-1983	NONE	
US 4536549	A	20-08-1985	AU 561153 B2 AU 2558684 A CA 1249692 A1 CA 1258050 A2 DE 3345686 A1 FR 2537981 A1 GB 2133018 A ,B IT 1170004 B NO 834692 A ,B, US 4540416 A	30-04-1987 21-02-1985 31-01-1989 01-08-1989 20-06-1984 22-06-1984 18-07-1984 03-06-1987 21-06-1984 10-09-1985
JP 2001046473	A	20-02-2001	NONE	